

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, June 23, 2006 – 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 24, 2006 – 8:00 a.m.
Embassy Suites
2577 W. Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman Joe Melton
Commissioner Michael M. Golightly
Commissioner William H. McLean
Commissioner Robert Hernbrode
Commissioner Jennifer L. Martin

Director Duane L. Shroufe
Deputy Director Steve K. Ferrell
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Shelley Cutts

Chairman Melton called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. The Commissioners introduced themselves and Chairman Melton introduced the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision dated June 16, 2006.

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1. State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission on the status of State Legislation. The Legislature concluded business for this year; Sine die occurred at 12:20 a.m. on June 22, 2006. The Governor signed the budget on June 21, 2006, which included the Department's supplemental budget request, which also included funding for the Classification Maintenance Review. Another budget item was \$200,000 to come out of the Game and Fish Fund over the next three fiscal years for upgrades to the DPS towers; the Department will try to have that money taken out of the Watercraft Fund in the next budget cycle. SB1441, the wildlife habitat appropriation, was signed by the Governor and appropriates 3.5 million dollars from the General Fund for five specified wildlife habitat projects. The Commission was also provided with a 2006 Legislative Summary (The Department's Legislative Communication and Effectiveness Report).

The Department has started working on legislation for the next cycle. Recommendations for changes to legislation are due to Mr. Guiles by July 21, 2006. A meeting is scheduled in July with OHV constituent groups.

Commissioner McLean requested a presentation in August or September in regards to the five projects associated with SB1441 so that the Commission can prioritize those projects, and further expressed the need to encumber those funds as soon as possible.

Director Shroufe stated that the Department will give a presentation on all five of those projects to the Commission in August and suggested that the Commission base the priority of the projects on the Department's ability to have those projects come to fruition on the ground. The

Department will ask the State Treasurer for those funds at the first opportunity after July 1, but the Department may not be able to get those funds until 90 days after Sine die.

Director Shroufe briefed the Commission on the unsuccessful OHV legislation run by the constituent groups. The Department is meeting with those constituent groups in July regarding OHV legislation for next year. Director Shroufe requested that the Commission sponsor this legislation next year if the Department can put together a coalition of some of those constituent groups along with state and federal agencies.

The Commission gave a consensus of support.

Commissioner McLean stated that the Game and Fish Department should be the primary agency to deal with OHVs, and that the legislation needed to have an enforcement component and a financial component, and further suggested that the Department look at the Idaho model for OHV regulation.

Commissioner Hernbrode cautioned that OHV issues should not take a priority over wildlife management issues.

Commissioner Golightly recommended that before the Commission make a recommendation to support legislation, that the Department bring this back in August for discussion.

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2. An Update on Current Issues, Planning Efforts, and Proposed Projects on State and Federal Lands in Arizona and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

A copy of the Lands Update report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting and is included as part of these minutes. The update addressed decisions or activities since the May 2006 Commission meeting. This update is in fulfillment of the Department's commitment to brief the Commission on a regular basis regarding decisions and actions on all state and federal lands in Arizona.

Mr. Broscheid further briefed the Commission on the latest developments. The Governor's Office submitted a request for Department employee, Larry Voyles, Regional Supervisor, Region IV, to be the state representative on the Sonoran Desert National Monument Advisory Council. The Council will work with BLM as they guide the future management on those lands. In regards to a recent Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) decision, on May 10, 2006, the IBLA issued a decision to dismiss an appeal by the Animal Defense League and the Mountain Lion Foundation on a programmatic environmental assessment in which the Department worked with the Kingman Field Office, BLM, for supplemental releases of desert bighorn sheep in that area. The Department now anticipates implementing this project in the near future. Lastly, the Crozier Big Ranch A allotments assessment has been completed and will be released early next week.

Director Shroufe provided the Commission with a news release from the Department of the Interior regarding three policies just released on how they were going to be used to manage

national fish and wildlife refuges, which included how they were going to cooperate with the state on those refuges. Also, the new MOU will be signed today by the Forest Service, BLM and the Executive Director of the association and will further define how wildlife is managed in wilderness areas.

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3. Proposed Dates and Locations of Arizona Game and Fish Commission Meetings for 2007 and January 2008

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

Mr. Ferrell presented the proposed dates for 2007 Commission meetings and Meet the Commission, and the 2008 January Commission meeting and Meet the Commission dates. The date for the 2008 Legislator Day is yet to be determined. Suggested dates and locations were as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 19 | Phoenix - Commission Meeting |
| January 20 | Phoenix - Meet the Commission |
| February 9-10 | Yuma |
| February 13 | Legislative Day |
| March 9-10 | Tucson |
| April 20-21 | Phoenix (hunt orders) |
| May 18-19 | Prescott |
| June 22 - 23 | Payson |
| August 10-11 | Flagstaff |
| September 7-8 | Pinetop |
| October 19-20 | Phoenix (fish orders) |
| December 7-8 | Phoenix |
| January/February 2008 | DATE OPEN/ Phoenix-Legislator Day |
| January 18, 2008 | Phoenix - Commission Meeting |
| January 19, 2008 | Phoenix - Meet the Commission |

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DECEMBER MEETING TO BE IN CASA GRANDE, AND THAT THE DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION CHAIR.

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioner Hernbrode requested that the Department make an effort to balance Commission meeting agendas by postponing some items, where possible, to meetings that do not have as full an agenda as this meeting.

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4. The Commission will be briefed on U.S. Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas and the State of Arizona's Petitioning Process for Inventoried Roadless Area Management.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Broscheid provided the Commission with an overview of U.S. Forest Service's inventoried roadless areas and the state petitioning process for roadless area management. Copies of the presentation were provided to the Commission and the public.

On January 12, 2001, the Forest Service promulgated the Roadless Area Conservation Rule to fundamentally change their approach to the management of 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest Service lands. This Rule established nationwide prohibitions that generally limit timber harvest, road construction and road re-construction within inventoried roadless areas on Forest Service lands.

On July 16, 2004, the Forest Service published a revised Rule to allow the Governors of each State the opportunity to provide input on the management requirements for National Forest System inventoried roadless areas within their States. This input would be accomplished through the development of a petition that identifies specific management recommendations for each or all inventoried roadless areas. Governor Janet Napolitano is committed to developing recommendations that conserve the integrity of the State's roadless areas, while establishing provisions for current public and administrative uses that allow implementation of necessary management actions to ensure the long-term health of the public land and its resources. Governor Napolitano requested the assistance of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department in facilitating an extensive public involvement process and assist in drafting Arizona's petition.

The petition must be completed by November 2006. If the Secretary of Agriculture accepts the petition, the Forest Service will be directed to initiate a rulemaking notice. The rulemaking will be developed in coordination with the State. Mr. Broscheid further briefed the Commission on the details of the process, how this new rule will work, and the differences from the previous rule. Also, this rule will be rolled into the future Forest Service's individual Forest Land Management Plans (LMP).

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5. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters. These items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and the Department requested that the Commission approve these matters as presented, subject to approval or recommendations of the Office of the Attorney General. Director Shroufe pulled agenda item e to address separately. All other items were presented to the Commission. Agenda items b and d were also set aside by the Commission for further discussion. The remaining consent agenda items were a, c and f.

a. Request for Commission to Authorize the Department to Acquire a Perpetual Right-of-Way from the Arizona State Land Department for Continued Public Recreational Access Across State Trust Land into the Coronado National Forest in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, and to Convey the Right-of-Way to the United States Forest Service

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

In 1994, the Commission authorized the Department to acquire road rights-of-way in Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties. In 1995, the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) approved a 10-year right-of-way for public recreational access into the Coronado National Forest from the Interstate-19 frontage road at the Chavez interchange (near Sopori Ranch). When that right-of-way expired in 2005, the ASLD advised the Commission to renew the current 10-year right-of-way before applying for a right-of-way in perpetuity. That 10-year right-of-way has been acquired and the Commission is now ready to apply for the perpetual right-of-way. Rental fees applied to the 10-year right-of-way will be prorated toward the purchase price.

The Department recommended that the Commission VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ACQUIRE A PERPETUAL RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM THE ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUED PUBLIC RECREATIONAL ACCESS ACROSS STATE TRUST LAND INTO THE CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND TO CONVEY THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE AND AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTIONS APPROVED HEREIN.

c. Renewal of Interagency Agreements for the Urban Fishing Program between the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Cities of Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Payson, Peoria, Phoenix, Sahuarita, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, and Tucson

Presenter: Lawrence M. Riley, Fisheries Branch Chief

Commission action is required under the provisions of A.R.S. § 17-231 B.7 to enter into agreements with other entities for the operation of wildlife facilities and the conduct of related wildlife management.

Over the past three years, three new lakes in two new cities have been added to the Urban Fishing Program and participation has increased to a record high in 2005. The annual sale of Urban fishing licenses has averaged more than 29,500 over the past three years with 32,153 sold in 2005. Another 12,000 unlicensed anglers, mostly youth, participate in the program. Urban anglers expend over \$5 million in direct expenditures to the Arizona economy annually. The program continues to operate under a self-supporting concept whereby license sale and municipal partnership fee revenues meet program expenses. These agreements will maintain the current level of operation of the program at 20 designated lakes totaling 163 surface acres in 11 cities.

The Department recommended that the Commission VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO FINALIZE NEGOTIATIONS, EXECUTE, AND AMEND AS NECESSARY INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS AND ANY FUTURE SUB-AGREEMENTS BETWEEN

THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITIES OF CHANDLER, GILBERT, MESA, PAYSON, PEORIA, PHOENIX, SAHUARITA, SCOTTSDALE, SURPRISE, TEMPE, AND TUCSON TO CONDUCT AN URBAN FISHING PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010 ON 20 DESIGNATED URBAN LAKES.

f. Request for the Commission to close the Florence Military Reservation to public entry for 6 weekend military training exercises during the coming year.

Presenter: Mark Weise, SSDV Branch Chief

Under the provisions of the MOU between the Arizona Army National Guard and the Commission, the National Guard is requesting closure to public entry of State Trust lands, upon which their Artillery ranges reside, for 6 separate weekends between July 1, 2006 and July 2007. These lands are in Northern GMU 37B northeast of Florence Arizona. Alternate public access is available off State Highway 60 to the Mineral Mountains while these closures are in effect.

The requested closures are from 0600 hours on the first date to 2400 hours on the last date and will involve the Cottonwood Canyon road traversing East off State Highway 79 into the Mineral Mountains. Requested dates are:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 16-21 July 2006 | 3-4 March 2007 |
| 21-22 October 2006 | 5-6 May 2007 |
| 20-21 January 2007 | 2-3- June 2007 |

During these dates live artillery firing will occur across the Cottonwood Canyon Road and military maneuvers will also be conducted during hours of daylight and dark involving tracked howitzers and blacked out military vehicles. In the interest of safety of the public, the requested closures were being sought.

The Department recommended that the Commission VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR CLOSURE AS SPECIFIED FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ACCOMMODATE MILITARY TRAINING.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5.A, 5.C AND 5.F AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Request for the Commission to Approve a Master Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management for the Purpose of Continued Cooperation Related to Fish and Wildlife Resource Management on Bureau of Land Management lands

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Broscheid briefed the Commission and addressed concerns regarding the Department and Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) agreement to update the Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to more clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of each agency with regard to working cooperatively to achieve specific fish and wildlife resources management goals and objectives on BLM lands. The intent of the MOU is to clearly identify expectations with regard to future cooperative work, and to establish a process for resolving potential issues and conflicts as a result of approved Resource Management Plans or other implementation-level documents.

Commissioner McLean stated that this agenda item calls upon the Commission to approve the entire MOU and he understands that the entire MOU was not yet completed.

Director Shroufe stated that the Department understood that the MOU would be completed by this time, but it was not. However, the Department brought this to the Commission to keep them informed as the pieces of the MOU comes together. The completed MOU will be brought before the Commission for approval when it is completed in 2-3 more months.

Chairman Melton asked about the language that the Department requested to be in the BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Mr. Broscheid stated that BLM believed the language proposed by the Department would give the Department pre-decisional or pre-approval to go ahead with projects without BLM knowing what those projects are and another concern was that pre-approval of that type would roll into other entities that wanted to do other similar types of activities.

Mike Taylor, BLM, was present and addressed the Commission confirming Mr. Broscheid's statement of BLM concerns regarding the language in the RMP. Mr. Taylor suggested that at this time the focus should be on the implementation document, the MOU, and then address the specific issues of the RMP by engaging in cooperative dialogue for any plans that are in process.

There was no official action taken by the Commission on this item.

d. Request for the Commission to Authorize the Department to Enter into Agreements with the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University and with Arizona Public Service to Further Resource Conservation in Arizona

Presenter: Bruce Taubert, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Rehabilitation of Arizona's natural vegetative communities is one of the greatest challenges that resource agencies face today. Large scale forest fires in the recent past have demonstrated the fact that our forests have changed dramatically and are in dire need of efforts to rehabilitate forests to reduce fire risks while preserving wildlife values. Accomplishing this is beyond the capabilities of any one agency and partnerships are required to accelerate the state of science knowledge to achieve healthy forests. A partnership between the Ecological Restoration Institute and the Department is a natural partnership where expertise in wildlife science and restoration ecology are brought together to develop prescriptions for forest restoration in a wildlife friendly fashion. This agreement will formalize a positive working relationship that has developed over the last decade.

Arizona Public Service provides electric power to much of the Southwest including most of Arizona. To accomplish the distribution of this power, APS maintains power corridors that cross many portions of Arizona. There is tremendous opportunity to maintain the vegetative community in these corridors in a fashion that will benefit wildlife populations. Further, there are many instances where project specific collaboration can be developed between APS and the Department to further conservation efforts in Arizona. This agreement formalizes a working relationship between the parties that will aid in developing a broad range of positive wildlife-related projects.

Public Comment

Scott Paulsen, Natural Resource Program Manager, Arizona Public Service, addressed the Commission in support of these agreements.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ERI AND APS TO FURTHER WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN ARIZONA.

Vote: Unanimous

e. Request for the Commission to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Audubon Society (Audubon Arizona) for the Purpose of Continued Cooperation on Conservation and Education Programs of Mutual Interest across the State of Arizona.

Presenter: Bruce D. Taubert, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. Taubert briefed the Commission on the Department and National Audubon Society's (Audubon Arizona) agreement to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the framework and understanding that will guide the two organizations in carrying out their mutual cooperation and coordination across the state of Arizona. In addition, the MOU will serve as the primary instrument to generate future collection agreements between the two entities.

The intent of the MOU is to more clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of each entity with regard to working cooperatively to achieve conservation and education programs of mutual interest.

Commissioner Hernbrode asked if this MOU would include all the Audubon Chapters around the state.

Randy Schilling with Audubon Arizona was present and addressed the Commission stating that it would and all 8 chapters would utilize this.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY (AUDUBON ARIZONA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUED COOPERATION ON CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST ACROSS THE STATE OF ARIZONA, AND EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS ATTACHED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:53 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

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The Commission was provided with a complete packet containing the Arizona Game and Fish Department Budget Requests for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 (Agenda items 6 through 16) prior to this meeting for review. Mr. Ferrell briefed the Commission on each item using a Power Point presentation.

6. Request to Approve the Heritage Fund Budget Amendments, Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget Amendments, and Off Highway Vehicle Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2007.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

These requests will ensure that remaining unspent balances in the Heritage, Off Highway Vehicle, and Wildlife Conservation Fund programs are available for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2007 for additional qualifying projects and related inter-fund cost transfers, and the Department's ability to respond to revenue shortfalls and unforeseen needs. All property acquisition proposals utilizing unspent Heritage Acquisition monies will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UNSPENT FUND BALANCES FROM THE PUBLIC ACCESS; IDENTIFICATION, INVENTORY, ACQUISITION, PROTECTION, AND MANAGEMENT; HABITAT EVALUATION AND PROTECTION; URBAN; ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION; ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (INTEREST MONIES) PROGRAMS; THE OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND, AND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.

Vote: Unanimous

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7. Request to approve the Game and Fish Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Game and Fish Fund consists primarily of revenue generated from the sale of licenses and tags. The Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Requests are a continuation of the Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 appropriated budgets adjusted for the following:

Personal Services and Employee Related Expenditures: The Department's Personal Services and Employee Related Expenditures request includes funding for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment. Additionally, \$23,000 is requested for each fiscal year to establish funding for a .5

FTE Clerk Typist position in the Field Operations Aviation Branch. This request does not require an increase in the number of appropriated positions in the Game and Fish Fund.

Professional and Outside Services: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$325,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$165,000 for Fiscal Year 2009. Some major highlights included:

- \$100,000 in each fiscal year for grassland restoration to benefit pronghorn populations,
- \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 for consulting fees associated with financial software upgrade,
- \$75,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 for hatchery renovation and planning,
- \$50,000 in each fiscal year to establish a new program to fund external Game and Fish Fund grants in support of the Sportsmen's Clubs.

Other Operating Expenditures: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$1,340,900 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$1,428,000 for Fiscal Year 2009. Some major highlights included:

- \$500,000 in each fiscal year for the Clay Target Center at Ben Avery Shooting Facility,
- \$200,000 in each fiscal year to fund browse restoration on the North Kaibab,
- \$238,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$265,600 in Fiscal Year 2009 to cover increased operating expenditures for the regions and headquarters. This request includes funding for increased motor pool fuel costs.
- \$120,000 in each fiscal year for fish stocking and aquatic habitat improvements.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested \$207,500 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$197,600 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the purchase of miscellaneous office equipment. The request also included funding for agency wide replacement of Game and Fish Fund purchased computers to continue the implementation of the Department's Information Technology/Communication plan.

Capital Equipment: The Department requested \$866,900 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$1,705,700 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the purchase of miscellaneous capital equipment. The request will fund the continuation of the Department's fleet replacement program.

Cost Transfer: The Department requested an increase of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 to establish a match funding account for non-Dingell Johnson/Pittman Robertson projects.

Capital Outlay: The Department requested \$667,800 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$667,800 in Fiscal Year 2009 to fund annual preventive maintenance and building renewal costs. Additionally, the request included funding for a DPS microwave communications system upgrade. The Legislature has appropriated \$207,000 annually in Fiscal Years 2007, 2008, and 2009 for this purpose.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$30,330,700 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$31,086,700 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE GAME AND FISH FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Request to approve the Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

Watercraft Licensing monies are generated from watercraft registration fees and licensing taxes. The Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 budget requests for the Watercraft Licensing Fund are a continuation of the Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 appropriated budgets adjusted for the following:

Personal Services and Employee Related Expenditures: The Department's Personal Services and Employee Related Expenditures request included funding for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment. Additionally, funding was requested for the following:

- Establish funding for a Law Enforcement Administrative Coordinator position in the Field Operations Law Enforcement Branch,
- Establish a new FTE to coordinate a proposed Statewide OUI enforcement grant program.

Professional and Outside Services: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$550,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$450,000 for Fiscal Year 2009 to fund the following:

- \$250,000 in each fiscal year for a proposed Statewide OUI enforcement grant program,
- \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for a marketing campaign to promote increased boating education class attendance,
- \$100,000 in each fiscal year to conduct watercraft surveys.

In-state and Out-of-state Travel: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$6,500 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$6,500 for Fiscal Year 2009 for in-state travel costs associated with training and outreach, and the proposed OUI enforcement grant program, and an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$3,500 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$3,500 for Fiscal Year 2009 for out-of-state travel costs associated with the proposed OUI enforcement grant program.

Other Operating Expenditures: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$2,454,750 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$2,409,750 for Fiscal Year 2009. Some major highlights included:

- \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year for the establishment of a watercraft OUI reduction program,
- \$450,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$370,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for a new on-line application process,
- \$325,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$450,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for a Pass-through boating safety grant program for Public Safety agencies,
- \$244,000 in each fiscal year to cover increased operating costs for the regions and headquarters,
- \$175,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$105,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for costs associated with a Clean Marina program, boating facilities guide, and boating enforcement signage.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$23,200 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$16,700 for Fiscal Year 2009 to purchase miscellaneous office equipment.

Capital Equipment: The Department requested \$522,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$446,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the purchase of miscellaneous capital equipment. The request included funding for new radio towers and radio tower upgrades.

Cost Transfer: The Department requested an increase of \$375,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$400,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 to fund the following:

- Annual payments of \$350,000 for the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Plan,
- Watercraft Fund cost transfer line increase in the amount of \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Capital Outlay: The Department requested \$515,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$440,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the following:

- \$195,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$120,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for construction of boat covers in regional offices and remote aid stations, and at the new headquarters site;
- \$240,000 in each fiscal year to construct new boating registration kiosks;
- \$80,000 in each fiscal year to establish an annual budget to pay for the Watercraft Fund portion of the new headquarters facilities.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$7,063,650 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$6,786,150 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Golightly absent

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Meeting recessed for a break at 11:16 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

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9. Request to approve the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund consists of revenue generated from the Arizona Income Tax Check-Off. The Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 budget requests for Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund are a continuation of the Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 base budgets as appropriated by the legislature. The Department requested \$322,500 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$322,500 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Operating Budget.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$322,500 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$322,500 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE GAME, NONGAME, FISH AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Request to approve the Capital Improvement Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

Revenues for the Capital Improvement Fund are generated from fund transfers from the Conservation Development Fund, which receives revenues from surcharges on the sale of fishing, hunting, and combination hunting/fishing licenses. The Department requested a Capital Outlay Budget of \$1,648,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 for the following projects:

- Flagstaff Regional Office Remodel/Expansion \$1,050,000
- Robbins Butte Levee Repair/Ditch Conversion \$ 228,000
- Statewide Shooting Range Access \$ 150,000
- Becker Lake Facilities Improvements \$ 120,000
- Little Colorado Footbridge at Becker Lake \$ 52,000
- Seven Mile Range Water System Upgrade \$ 48,000

The Department requested a Capital Outlay Budget of \$1,354,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the following projects:

- Yuma Regional Office Remodel/Expansion \$ 954,000
- Mesa Regional Office Paving Project \$ 250,000
- Statewide Shooting Range Access \$ 150,000

Mr. Ferrell stated that the FY09 Capital Outlay Budget may be modified if the development of the Northern Arizona Shooting Range stays on schedule.

Commissioner Hernbrode noted that Pima County is currently negotiating to buy Buckaloo, which is out at Three Points, and the Department needs to consider that as a recruitment and retention opportunity as with Robbins Butte.

Motion: Golightly moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$1,648,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$1,354,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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11. Request to approve the Waterfowl Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Waterfowl Conservation Fund consists of revenues from the sale of Waterfowl Duck Stamps, royalties from the sale of prints, and interest on funds invested. The Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 Budget Requests are a continuation of the Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 budgets, as appropriated by the Legislature for developing migratory waterfowl habitat and associated research and management to increase the number of migratory waterfowl in Arizona. The Department is requested \$43,400 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$43,400 in Fiscal Year 2009 in Other Operating Expenditures for habitat conservation, stewardship, and waterfowl management and research projects.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$43,400 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$43,400 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE WATERFOWL CONSERVATION FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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12. Request to approve the Wildlife Endowment Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Wildlife Endowment Fund receives revenues from the sale of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. The Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 Budget Requests are a continuation of the Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 budgets, as appropriated by the Legislature. This appropriation facilitates an annual interest transfer to the Game and Fish Fund per ARS §17-271. The Department requested \$16,000 in Other Operating Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$16,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 to facilitate an annual transfer of accumulated interest to the Game and Fish Fund.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$16,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$16,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Request to approve the Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Federal Assistance request for the Department was summarized in schedules, provided to the Commission with their budget packets, and represented a continuation of previously approved activities from Fiscal Year 2007. The amounts represented Federal funds only; the required matching funds were not included. The major highlights were:

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Other Operating Expenditures: Increases for the Motorpool were due to increased expenditures for fuel.

Capital Equipment: Replacement of 24 vehicles, 12 each year.

Pittman-Robertson (Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$5.6 million, and the apportionments for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were anticipated to be \$5.7 million and \$5.9 million respectively. With the addition of carry forward funds from unspent grant balances, the Department projected the total federal contribution from "Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration" to be \$6.1 million in both Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009. Due to the Department anticipating stable apportionments through Fiscal Year 2009, operational monies and equipment replacements are being held at Fiscal Year 2007 levels.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux (Federal Assistance in Sportfish Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$5.7 million, and the apportionments for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were anticipated to be \$7.1 million and \$7.2 million respectively. With the addition of carry forward funds from unspent grant balances, the Department projected the total federal contribution from "The Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration" to be \$7.6 million in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$7.5 million in Fiscal Year 2009. Additional highlights were:

Other Operating Expenditures: Increases for stream renovations for the Apache Trout recovery project. The Urban Fishing Program includes a program expansion for both FY 2008 and 2009.

Capital Outlay: Funds for Dam maintenance on Arizona lakes.

Coast Guard Boating Safety: The projected revenues for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were anticipated to be \$1.5 million each year. The budget requests for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 represent a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. Capital equipment requests included boats for regional watercraft safety enforcement.

Section 6, Endangered Species Act: The budget requests for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 represent a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. The projected allocations for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were anticipated to be \$400,000 each year, including Habitat Conservation Planning grants. Endangered species projects will continue to be funded from this program.

State Wildlife Grants: The State Wildlife Grant program appropriates funds for wildlife conservation. The federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$1.4 million, and the projected federal allocations for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were estimated to be the same. The funds are utilized for multi-year projects, and revenues will be received over the course of the project

periods. The estimated funding in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 will allow for continuation of projects to conserve wildlife.

Landowner Incentive Program: The Landowner Incentive Program appropriates funds to assist private landowners to conserve and restore habitat of endangered species and other at-risk plants and animals. The federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$655,000, and the projected federal allocations for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were estimated to be the same. The funds are utilized for multi-year projects, and revenues will be received over the course of the project periods. The estimated funding in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 will allow for continuation of the partnerships with private landowners.

Special Contract Monies: The estimated budgets for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 represent a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. Projected revenues for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 were anticipated to remain stable at approximately \$3.6 million each year. These are generally contracts for wildlife inventory and research. Examples of Fiscal Year 2006 contracts include studies of the Southwest Willow Flycatcher and Mexican Wolf, and Pygmy Owl surveys.

Motion: Golightly moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON; DINGELL-JOHNSON/WALLOP-BREAUX; COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY; SECTION 6 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT; STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS; LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM; AND SPECIAL CONTRACTS FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009.

Vote: Unanimous

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14. Request to approve the Heritage Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Heritage Fund request for the Department was summarized in schedules and provided to the Commission in their budget packets. The budget requests were higher than revenue projections for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 due to the use of Heritage carry forward balances.

Major fund highlights are:

Environmental Education: The projected revenue was anticipated to be \$500,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$1,139,350, and Fiscal Year 2009 was \$571,445. These requests require the use of \$639,350 of carry forward for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$71,445 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Professional and Outside Services: The Department requested increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$594,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$40,000.

- \$554,000 Audubon Center Pond at Central Ave and the Salt River FY2008
- \$40,000 Statewide highway signage FY2008 and FY2009

Cost Transfer: The Department requested \$48,050 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$34,145 in Fiscal Year 2009 to transfer funds to Heritage Administration and Support Services.

Habitat Evaluation and Protection: The projected revenue was anticipated to be \$1,500,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$2,349,239, and Fiscal Year 2009 was \$2,397,132. These requests require the use of \$849,239 of carry forward for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$897,132 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Capital Equipment: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$95,000. This request will fund the continuation of the Department's fleet replacement program.

Cost Transfer: The Department proposed to match the Federal FW-11-TG Project (Habitat Evaluation and Protection) with \$2,036,390 of Heritage funds in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$2,050,998 of Heritage funds in Fiscal Year 2009.

- (\$7,030) Reduction in the FW-11-TG match from FY2007 to FY2008
- \$7,578 Increase in the FW-11-TG match from FY2007 to FY2009

The Department requested \$144,149 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$102,434 in Fiscal Year 2009 to transfer funds to Heritage Administration and Support Services.

Heritage Fund Administration and Support Services (Interest Monies): The projected revenue was anticipated to be \$260,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$935,100 and Fiscal Year 2009 was \$936,000. Because the amount of interest currently being earned is insufficient to cover the expenditures for this program the Department recommended proportionate transfers from the other Heritage subprograms to make up the difference. These requests require fund transfers from the subprograms in the amounts of \$960,993 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$682,896 in Fiscal Year 2009.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$3,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$3,900. This request will fund the replacement of computers to continue the implementation of the Department's Information Technology/Communication plan. Obsolete equipment is being replaced in order to meet Department standards.

Public Access: The projected revenue was anticipated to be \$500,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$491,950, and Fiscal Year 2009 was \$478,045. The Fiscal Year 2009 request requires the use of \$30,045 of carry forward money.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Cost Transfer: The Department requested \$48,050 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$34,145 in Fiscal Year 2009 to transfer funds to Heritage Administration and Support Services.

Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, and Management: The projected revenue was anticipated to be \$3,600,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 for IIAPM. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$4,074,436 and Fiscal Year 2009 was \$3,974,322. These requests require the use of \$474,436 of carry forward for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$374,322 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Other Operating Expenditures: The Department requested increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$20,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$20,000 for increased motor pool fuel costs.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$60,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$60,000. This request will fund the replacement of computers to continue the implementation of the Department's Information Technology/Communication plan. Obsolete equipment is being replaced in order to meet Department standards.

Capital Equipment: The Department is requesting increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$100,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$100,000. This request will fund the continuation of the Department's fleet replacement program.

Cost Transfer: The Department is requesting \$345,957 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$245,843 in Fiscal Year 2009 to transfer funds to Heritage Administration and Support Services.

The projected revenue for Acquisition is anticipated to be \$2,400,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. All property acquisition proposals utilizing the Acquisition account will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Cost Transfer: The Department requested \$230,638 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$163,895 in Fiscal Year 2009 to transfer funds to Heritage Administration and Support Services.

Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat: The projected revenue was anticipated to be \$1,500,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$1,899,479 and Fiscal Year 2009 was \$1,857,764. These requests require the use of \$399,479 of carry forward for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$357,764 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment.

Other Operating Expenditures: The Department requested increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$55,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$55,000 for increased motor pool fuel costs.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested increases in Fiscal Year 2008 of \$20,000 and in Fiscal Year 2009 of \$20,000. This request will fund the replacement of computers to

continue the implementation of the Department's Information Technology/Communication plan. Obsolete equipment is being replaced in order to meet Department standards.

Cost Transfer: The Department requested \$144,149 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$102,434 in Fiscal Year 2009 to transfer funds to Heritage Administration and Support Services.

Commissioner Golightly asked about the \$554,000 for the Audubon Center and the Environmental Education Fund.

Director Shroufe stated that this item will be brought back to the Commission in August for Commission direction to the Department.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE HABITAT EVALUATION AND PROTECTION; ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (INTEREST MONIES); PUBLIC ACCESS; IDENTIFICATION, INVENTORY, ACQUISITION, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT; AND URBAN WILDLIFE AND URBAN WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009; EXCEPT FOR THE AUDUBON CENTER AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUND THAT IS PENDING FUTURE COMMISSION DIRECTION IN AUGUST.

Vote: Unanimous

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15. Request to approve the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Off-Highway Vehicle Fund consists of revenues generated from motor vehicle fuel taxes. The Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Requests are a continuation of the Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 base budgets adjusted for the following:

Other Operating Expenditures: The Department requested an increase in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$155,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$155,000 for Fiscal Year 2009 to cover increased operating costs for the regions. Additionally, the request included funding for OHV Outreach and Habitat Protection projects.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$3,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the purchase of ATV trailers for regional law enforcement purposes. The purchase of the ATV equipment will be split funded with the Game and Fish Fund.

Capital Equipment: The Department is requested \$68,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$21,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 for the purchase of ATVs and travel trailers for the regions. The purchase of the ATVs and travel trailers will be split funded with the Game and Fish Fund.

Cost Transfer: The Department requested \$15,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$40,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 to increase the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund cost transfer line to \$450,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$475,000 in Fiscal Year 2009.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$1,015,350 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$991,350 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FROM THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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16. Request to approve the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009.

Presenter: Steve K. Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Wildlife Conservation Fund monies are generated from shared gaming revenues, through the Arizona Benefits Fund, with the State of Arizona and local governments, to support specified state and local programs. Annual revenue projections were estimated to be \$6,507,303 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. The requested budget was \$7,589,299 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$7,433,299 for Fiscal Year 2009. The budget requests were higher than revenue projections due to the utilization of WCF carry forward balances. The budget request requires the use of \$1,081,996 of carry forward monies for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$925,996 of carry forward monies for Fiscal Year 2009.

Personal Services and ERE: The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request amounts and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request amounts included an increase for the non-wildlife series equity adjustment. The Department also requested \$60,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 for one limited position to conduct forest restoration research.

Professional and Outside Services: The Department requested an increase of \$1,008,000 for each Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009. Some of the annual projects included:

- \$300,000 WCF external grants program
- \$200,000 Construction, maintenance, and redevelopment of water catchments
- \$150,000 Improved mule deer habitat in the Clifton Ranger District

Other Operating Expenses: The Department requested an increase of \$2,005,600 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$1,723,600 for Fiscal Year 2009. Some of the annual projects included:

- \$500,000 Wildlife area operation and maintenance projects
- \$250,000 Anita/Cameron antelope habitat improvement in FY2008
- \$100,000 Acquisition of perpetual easements

Travel-in-State: The Department requested an increase of \$9,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$4,000 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Non-Capital Equipment: The Department requested \$3,900 in each fiscal year to purchase computers.

Capital Equipment: The Department requested an increase of \$397,500 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$403,500 for Fiscal Year 2009. Some of the annual projects included:

- \$233,500 Radio system upgrades
- \$170,000 Motorpool vehicle purchase to continue the Department's fleet replacement program in FY2009

Capital Outlay: The Department requested an increase of \$1,615,000 for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$1,800,000 for Fiscal Year 2009. Some of the annual projects included:

- \$1,600,000 New AZG&F headquarters at Ben Avery Shooting Facility
- \$200,000 Silver Creek hatchery renovation in FY2009

Cost Transfer: The Department requested an increase of \$40,000 in each fiscal year for Fish and Wildlife Health program interfund expenditures.

Public Comment

Blaine Bickford, representing himself, thanked the Department for their commitment and efforts including keeping Wildlife Managers in the field, and for outreach in hunter retention and recruitment as well as all shooting sports and fishing.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSIN VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$7,589,299 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 AND \$7,433,299 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:33 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

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Executive Session

The Commission voted to meet in Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussion and consultation with legal counsel.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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17. Hearings on License Revocations for Violation of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife

Presenter: Ronald L. Day, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Record of these proceedings is maintained in a separate minutes book in the Director's Office.

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18. Notice of Docket Opening and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend R12-4-102 to Prescribe Privileges Given Under the Super Conservation Licenses

Presenter: Carlos Ramirez, Rule Writer, Rules and Risk

Amendments made to A.R.S. § 17-333 during the 2005 legislative session established the Class L, M, and N super conservation licenses. Although statute prescribes the wildlife privileges given under the Class L license, the statute directs the Commission to prescribe the stamps and tags for the Classes M or N licenses. This rulemaking will prescribe those stamps and tags.

As authorized under A.R.S. § 17-333, purchase of a Class M super conservation hunting license provides the license holder with the same privileges as a Class G general hunting license. Purchase of a Class N super conservation hunting and fishing license provides the license holder with the same privileges as a Class F combination hunting and fishing license and a Class U urban fishing license. The privileges of the Class M and N super conservation licenses also include nonpermit-tags for archery deer, archery turkey, fall bear, and mountain lion, the Unit 12A (North Kaibab) Habitat stamp, the Arizona State migratory bird stamp, and the Arizona migratory waterfowl stamp. Purchase of the Class N license also entitles the license holder to a trout stamp, established under A.R.S. § 17-333. Additional amendments will be made to clearly state the privileges given under statute by purchasing a Class L super conservation fishing license. Amendments will also be made to correct the fee for a Class I family fishing license. The surcharge authorized under A.R.S. § 17-345 was mistakenly applied twice.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE A NOTICE OF DOCKET OPENING AND A NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO AMEND R-12-4-102, DEALING WITH LICENSES, TAGS, STAMPS, AND PERMITS, TO PRESCRIBE THE PRIVILEGES GIVEN UNDER THE CLASS M AND N SUPER CONSERVATION LICENSES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.

Vote: Unanimous

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19. Litigation Report

Mr. Odenkirk had no additional updates.

Commissioner McLean asked about the status of the Bar D Cattle Co. case, and in regards to the George Johnson case, Commissioner McLean asked when the mediation meeting was scheduled and who would be the mediator.

Mr. Odenkirk stated that the Bar D case is still ongoing by the Attorney General's Office and is not typically added to the Litigation Report. Mr. Odenkirk advised that there is a mandatory

settlement conference scheduled for July and a trial date scheduled for September. In regards to the Johnson case, there is a mediation scheduled in August.

Ms. Cutts stated that the mediator will be either Beer or Toone of Beer and Toone Law Firm.

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20. Vote to Change Commission Policy A2.27 to Allow the Commission Appointment of a Commissioner to Chair the Wildlife Assets Committee and Appoint a New Chairman for the Wildlife Assets Committee.

Presenter: Duane L. Shroufe, Director

The current composition of the Wildlife Assets Committee does not have a Game and Fish Commissioner as the Chairman of the Committee. This is inconsistent with other standing Commission committees (e.g., Heritage Public Advisory Committee and Habitat Partnership Committee). The Commission will be asked to vote on making the Wildlife Assets Committee the same as the other standing Commission committees by having a Commissioner appointed as the Chairman of the Committee. If approved, the Commission will also be asked to appoint a new Chairman of the Wildlife Assets Committee.

This is a first read. Whenever there is a change in Commission policy, it is noticed twice in order to provide adequate public comment. At the August meeting the Department will present this agenda item again to the Commission along with the policy reflecting the change.

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21. Director and Chairman's Report

Director Shroufe reported that the Governor initiated a new committee on growth in Arizona and the Department has been active on that committee with the hope and intent of ensuring that wildlife is considered as part of the growth policy in Arizona.

The Department met with USGS to talk about programs and projects at the Glen and Grand Canyons regarding endangered fish, trout and humpback chub. The Department met with the Denver and Albuquerque regions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to try to finalize the management plan for the humpback chub in the Glen and Grand Canyons. Some humpback chub will be taken out of the lower Colorado River and preserved in the hatcheries.

Richard Rico reported to the Commission for the Director on the draw. There were a number of issues with the draw on the draw application deadline date. The online application was not operating correctly, which included intermittent online service, double charges to credit cards, confirmation numbers not provided, and a 24 hour extension of the deadline. The Department will meet in August with the vendor regarding their performance failure.

Director Shroufe asked the Commission if they wanted to consider going back to the manual application for leftover tags and if so, a Telephonic Commission meeting will be necessary.

Commissioner McLean requested that a Telephonic Commission meeting be scheduled, if necessary, subsequent to the Department meeting with the vendor and subject to approval by the Attorney General's Office.

Chairman Melton attended the Kingman Fishing Day and provided pictures of the event.

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22. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Hernbrode participated on the BASF RFP committee; attended the Pima County Shooting Range advisory meeting; Chaired an HPAC meeting in Flagstaff; and spent two days with the Wildlife Viewing Guide Steering Committee in developing the wildlife viewing guide for the State of Arizona.

Commissioner McLean reported that he also participated on the BASF RFP committee; discussed and participated in legislative matters with Mr. Guiles; and reviewed the Commission meeting packet.

Commissioner Golightly reported that he worked on legislative matters; prepared for this Commission meeting; and talked with BLM.

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23. Approval and Signing of Minutes

The Commission was asked to approve the minutes for April 21, 2006, April 26, 2006, and June 1, 2006. There were no minutes to sign at this time.

Motion: Golightly moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR APRIL 21, 2006, APRIL 26, 2006, AND JUNE 1, 2006.

Vote: Unanimous

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24. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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Saturday, June 24, 2006 – 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Melton called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. The Commissioners introduced themselves and Chairman Melton introduced the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision dated June 16, 2006.

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Awards and Commissioning of Officers

On behalf of the North American Waterfowl Conservation Plan, Director Shroufe presented the National Great Blue Heron Award to Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. Charles Slocum with Wellton-Mohawk was present to receive the award. The award was for their work in the Quigley Wildlife Area, which has become a haven for migratory birds along the Gila and Colorado River corridors.

On behalf of the Mohave Sportsman Club and the Pima community, Chairman Melton presented an award to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for their continued support of hunting and fishing activities for the youth in the Pima community.

Also on behalf of the Mohave Sportsman Club and the Pima community, Chairman Melton presented an award to the Wildlife Conservation Council for their generous contribution and continued support of the Kids Fishing Day.

There were no commissioning of officers at this time.

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1. Statewide Shooting Range Briefing

Presenter: Ty Gray, Education Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with an update prior to this meeting of Department activities related to shooting range support and development statewide. The update covered activities that have occurred since the May 2006 Commission meeting. The statewide shooting range briefing is part of the Department's ongoing commitment to provide the Commission with updates on statewide shooting range development and shooting sports in general.

Mr. Gray noted one additional item. The Department has been working with the Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association in Apache County in acquiring the St. John's Shooting Range. A potential liability issue was discovered in regards to lead contamination on the bordering private property. Also, access is an issue whereby approximately 500 ft. of the entrance road is on that private property and the land owner is not interested in selling the property. Therefore, the Department believes that it would be prudent to not pursue acquisition of the range.

The Commission discussed the issues and the potential cost of remediation and liability.

Commissioner Golightly requested more information in regards to any potential alternatives to the issues.

Commissioner Hernbrode stated that he would not want to acquire the range and thereby acquire the liability for the contamination on the private property.

Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief, presented the Commission with an update on the Northern Arizona Shooting Range. A sound study is scheduled for July 11, 2006, but may have to be postponed due to forest closures, and the Department is moving forward on finalizing two proposed range designs. Also, the Department is moving forward with water and soil contamination studies, archeology studies, and some wildlife surveys. The plan is to have these studies significantly progressing by the time the sound study takes place. Once these studies are done, they will be rolled into the NEPA document. The re-appraisal of the property is planned in the next month or two.

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2. Statewide Shooting Range Grant Requests for FY 2007

Presenter: Ty Gray, Education Branch Chief

Mr. Gray presented the Department's Shooting Ranges Grants Program, which received six grant applications for fiscal year 2007. White Mountain Trap and Skeet Club withdrew their application, and the Town of Fredonia, Fredonia Public Shooting Facility, after consultation with the Department, agreed they were not ready to proceed at this time. The Department asked the Commission to consider and approve four of the applications: 1.) Clay Target Machine Upgrade at the Tucson Trap and Skeet Club shooting facility; 2.) Safety Improvements at the Jim Jones Shooting Range (Tonto Rim Sports Club); 3.) Ramada, Benches, and Fencing at the Elzy Pearson Public Shooting Range (City of Casa Grande); and 4.) Sporting Clays Course Expansion at the Utery Mountain Shooting Range (Rio Salado Sportsman's Club) for a total of \$96,703.

The following is a summary of the grant applications received for the FY07 Shooting Ranges Grant cycle:

Tucson Trap and Skeet Club: The club requested \$23,100 to purchase five new clay target throwing machines (trap machines) to improve and expand clay target shooting opportunities. Recommended for funding.

City of Casa Grande Elzy Pearson Public Shooting Range: The City of Casa Grande requested \$25,000 to construct the following: a shooting shade Ramada and shooting benches on the 65 yard pistol range and the 300 yard range; a chain link security fence to enclose these two bays; bleachers for spectators and shooters; and additional signage regarding shooting range rules, policies and procedures. Recommended for funding.

Tonto Rim Sportsmen Club – Jim Jones Shooting Range: The club requested \$39,693 to make improvements on the range including building and moving berms and other miscellaneous projects on the High Power, Training and Hand Gun Ranges. Recommended for funding contingent upon the club and the Department reaching an agreement on final safety improvements.

Rio Salado Sportsman's Club: The club requested \$9,000 to expand the Sporting Clays Course to increase shooter capacity. The project proposal includes the construction and widening of trails, installation of three pairs of additional shooting stations which would include the purchase of six Promatic 12V electronic traps. In addition, shooting station frames, benches and gun racks would be constructed. Recommended for funding contingent upon the following: 1) New shooting stations would not be located in safety or ricochet zones for the small bore range and, 2) Sporting Clays range will not be in operation at the same time as the small bore range. The Management Plan will be modified to fully exhibit the new range developments already constructed and no new development will be undertaken without prior written approval by the Department.

Town of Fredonia – Fredonia Public Shooting Facility (WITHDRAWN): The Town of Fredonia requested \$22,000 to begin construction of a range including constructing earthen berms, covered shooting stations, security fences and an information kiosk. The range plan is still in the preliminary stages and therefore not recommended for funding. The Department is very supportive of the development of a range in Fredonia and has committed to working with the Town to develop a better plan and will encourage the Town to apply for a Shooting Range Development Grant next cycle.

White Mountain Trap and Skeet Club: The club requested \$8,000 to expand the skeet field; however, they withdrew their application on May 20, 2006.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE SHOOTING RANGE GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE FY07 GRANT CYCLE, WITH THE CONTINGENCIES AS PRESENTED, FOR A TOTAL OF \$96,703.

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Wildlife 2012: The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Strategic Plan for the Years 2007 – 2012

Presenter: Bruce Taubert, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Taubert briefed the Commission on the status of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's next six-year strategic plan and requested input from the Commission. Department strategic plans are intended to identify the management direction that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission provides to the Department for a period of approximately six years. Strategic plans discuss the most important issues facing the Department, and explain how the Department plans to respond to those issues.

Prior Department strategic plans, such as the existing *Wildlife 2006* strategic plan focused on one of the Department's programmatic areas; such as wildlife. In contrast, *Wildlife 2012* will provide strategic guidance for all programs within the Department. While wildlife management will still be emphasized, *Wildlife 2012* will also address off-highway vehicle and watercraft recreation beyond their impacts to wildlife resources, and the overall administration of the Department.

Previous strategic plans were also detailed, down to the level of day-to-day Department operations. In contrast, *Wildlife 2012* has a broader more strategic perspective. The day-to-day details will not be lost, but will instead be described in operational and implementation plans. The Department biennial budgets and operational plans will focus on stepping down from the strategic plan to the actual budget cycle, and the implementation plans will focus on more immediate priorities (tiered from the operational plans). The *Wildlife 2012* plan is built around four "strategic themes"; Wildlife, People, Assets and Staff. Under each theme, one or more topics are discussed. For each topic, the plan will identify strategic issues affecting that topic, and goals, objectives and strategies to address the strategic issues.

Public involvement in the development of *Wildlife 2012* is important, and will be extensive. Several public meetings will be conducted during September and October 2006, and the Department plans to bring this document back to the Commission in December 2006 for final approval. January of 2007 will be the first year of the *Wildlife 2012* plan.

Chairman Melton requested that Mr. Taubert provide him with a list of the approximate number of species that the State of Arizona manages, and the number that are hunted and fished.

The Commission and Mr. Taubert discussed the plan and addressed Commission concerns and comments; the plan was modified accordingly.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:39 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:59 a.m.

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4. Ben Avery Shooting Facility and Clay Target Center Operational RFP

Presenter: Dana Yost, Assistant Director, Information and Education Division

Mr. Yost provided the Commission with a briefing on the Operational RFP that was issued for the Ben Avery Shooting Facility (BASF) and the Clay Target Center (CTC). The CTC is currently operated by a vendor under a contract that will expire in September 2006. In October 2005, the Commission gave direction to the Department to put together an RFP process to solicit vendors for the CTC operations. The Commission also directed the Department to put together an Operational/Business Plan for the Department to operate the facility. Both of these items were presented to the Commission for determination of who would operate the facility.

Executive Session

The Commission voted to meet in Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(02)(4) to receive and discuss responses to the operation RFP for BASF, which is information that is confidential by state law.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Melton called the Public Session back to order at 10:37 a.m.

Mr. Yost continued stating that the Department believes the RFP's were not in the best interest of the State and therefore recommended that the Commission approve the Department's proposal and Business Plan for the Department to operate the CTC at BASF. Copies of the Department's proposal were provided to the Commission and the public and noted as a draft working document.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT PROPOSAL AND BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE THE CLAY TARGET CENTER AT THE BEN AVERY SHOOTING FACILITY.

Public comment

Tom Woods (former AGFD Commissioner), representing himself, addressed the Commission in support of the Department operating the facility.

Landis Aden, Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association, presented some concerns, but was overall in support as long as the range was a major Department commitment.

Bill Poole, Vice President, Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association, presented some concerns regarding volunteers and the financial aspects of the Department running the range, but was cautiously in support.

Mr. Yost stated that if the Commission makes the decision to award the operation functions of the CTC to the Department, the master plan process on the CTC will be launched next week and will include extensive public interaction and input with regard to the user groups. The plan will then be complete

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Consideration of Proposed Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Antelope, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Buffalo, and Black Bear for the 2007-2008 Hunting Seasons

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Ordway presented Commission Order 29: Special Hunts, establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Special Big Game Hunt License Tags. A detailed description of all proposals were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and were available for public review. A.R.S. 17-346 authorizes the Commission to set seasons for up to three special license tags for each species.

It is recommended that all special big game license tag hunt seasons be open year round, with the season for each species commencing on August 1, 2007 and ending on July 31, 2008. Recommended open areas for the special license-tag hunts are as follows

Mule Deer: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 1-16A (except Camp Navajo and Mohave County Park lands), and 17A-45C (except Fort Huachuca, but including the Kofa NWR).

White-tailed Deer: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 6A, 6B (except Camp Navajo), 8, 21, 22, 23, 24A, 24B, and 27 - 36C (except Fort Huachuca).

Antelope: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 1-10 (except Camp Navajo), 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, portions of 19A, 19B, 21, 30A, 31, 32, 34B, 35A (except Fort Huachuca), and 35B.

Elk: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 1, 2B-10 (except Camp Navajo), 12A, 12B, 16A (except Mohave County Park Lands), 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 19B, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 32 and 44A.

Javelina: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 1-6B (except Camp Navajo), 8, 10, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 16A (except Mohave County Park Lands), 17A - 24B, 25M – 38M (except Fort Huachuca), 39 - 44B, and 47M.

Turkey: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 1, 3B-10 (except Camp Navajo), 12A, 13A, 13BS, 17A, 17B, 20A, 22, 23, 27, and 35A (except Fort Huachuca).

Bighorn Sheep: One special license-tag will be valid for Units 9, 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, and 16A (except Mohave County Park Lands). A second special license-tag will be valid for Units 16B (north of Lake Havasu City), 22, 24B, 31, 32, 39, 40A, 40B, 41, 43A, 43B, 44A (west of the Swansea Road and south of Bill Williams River Rd.), 44B, 45A, 45B, 45C (including the Kofa NWR), 46A and 46B (including the Cabeza Prieta NWR). A third special license-tag will be valid for Units 1, 27, and 28.

Buffalo: Special license-tags will be valid for Units 12A, 12B, and 13A (House Rock herd).

Black Bear: Special license-tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Commissioner Hernbrode requested that instead of listing each unit, it would simplify things to say statewide and then list any exceptions.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 29: SPECIAL HUNTS AS PRESENTED, WITH THE DIRECTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL CHANGE OPEN AREAS AS APPLICABLE TO STATEWIDE WITH EXCEPTIONS NOTED THUS SIMPLIFYING THE ORDER.

(Note: The Department made changes to season open areas for mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and javelina per this direction; season open areas for antelope, turkey, bighorn sheep, buffalo, and blackbear remained as presented.)

Vote: Unanimous

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6. Consideration of Applications for Special Big Game Hunt License-Tags for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Antelope, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Buffalo, and Black Bear for 2007-2008.

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Ordway briefed the Commission on the applications received by the Department for Special Big Game License-Tags from nonprofit organizations in accordance with A.R.S. 17-346 and Commission Rule R12-4-120. Copies of the applications and a summary of past fundraising efforts were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review. The applications were as follows:

Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF): The AAF requested three (3) Special Antelope License-Tags; one to be auctioned at the AAF's fundraising banquet; the second to be auctioned at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society's fundraising banquet; the third would be included in the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. If the Commission decides the "Super Raffle" isn't an appropriate means to use the third special antelope license-tag, the AAF would auction a third license-tag at the Arizona Elk Society's fundraising banquet, or one of similar quality and attendance. The AAF noted support for continuation of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA): The ABA requested one (1) Special Javelina License-Tag, one (1) Special Black Bear License-Tag and one (1) Special Buffalo License-Tag; all tags to be auctioned at their annual banquet in March 2007. The ABA noted support for continuation of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Deer Association (ADA): The ADA requested one (1) Special Big Game License-Tag for each species to be included in the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle and noted their support for the raffle to continue. The ADA specifically requested two (2) Special Mule Deer License-Tags (one for auction or two for auction if the Super Raffle is not approved), and three (3) Special Whitetail Deer License-Tags (two for auction or three for auction if the Super Raffle is not approved). The ADA would also appreciate being considered for any license-tags that are not specifically requested or awarded to other conservation groups.

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS): The ADBSS requested three (3) Special Bighorn Sheep License-Tags: one (1) license-tag for a *Nelsoni* desert bighorn sheep in the northern game management units as part of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, with the drawing to be held in the summer 2007; one (1) license-tag for a *Mexicana* desert bighorn sheep in the southern units to be auctioned at the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep convention in Salt Lake City, UT in January 2007; and one (1) license-tag for a Rocky Mountain

bighorn sheep in the eastern units to be auctioned at the ADBSS fundraiser banquet in March 2007. The ADBSS is willing to auction at their fundraiser banquet in March 2007 any other special big game license-tags that the Commission would like to issue to them. They noted support for continuation of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Elk Society (AES): The AES requested two (2) Special Elk License-Tags and one (1) Special Buffalo License-Tag; one Special Elk License-Tag and the Special Buffalo License-Tag to be auctioned at their annual fundraising banquet in March 2007 and one (1) Special Elk License-Tag to be raffled in next year's Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. The AES noted support for continuation of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Mule Deer Foundation (MDF): The MDF requested one (1) Special Mule Deer License-Tag, one (1) Special Buffalo License-Tag, one (1) Special Black Bear License-Tag, one (1) Special Javelina License-Tag, and one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License-Tag; all license-tags to be auctioned at the MDF 2007 National Convention at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 17-21, 2007. The MDF noted support for continuation of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf): The NWTf requested three (3) Special Turkey License-Tags: one (1) license-tag to be auctioned during their 2007 Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee; the second to be raffled or auctioned by the Arizona Chapter of the NWTf; the third to be raffled in conjunction with the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle if that program is continued next year; the NWTf note their support for continuation of the raffle venue.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF): The RMEF requested one (1) Special Elk License-Tag for auction at the 2007 Elk Foundation International Elk Camp in Reno, Nevada, February 22-25, 2007 and one (1) Special Buffalo License-Tag for auction by one of RMEF's Arizona chapters at its respective annual Big Game Banquet. The RMEF would also requested the opportunity to auction any other special license-tags that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission wishes to award to them; the auction would occur at another successful Arizona Chapter banquet.

Safari Club International – Arizona Chapter (SCI-AZ): The SCI-AZ requested one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License-Tag, one (1) Special Buffalo License-Tag, one (1) Special Black Bear License-Tag, and one (1) Special Javelina License-Tag; all license-tags to be auctioned at their annual fund-raising auction in Spring 2007. Additionally, SCI-AZ requested that the Commission consider increasing the number of available special big game license-tags.

Safari Club International – Phoenix Chapter (SCI-PHX): The SCI-PHX requested one (1) Special Mule Deer License-Tag, one (1) Special Antelope License-Tag, one Special Whitetail Deer License-Tag, and one Special Buffalo License-Tag; all license-tags to be auctioned at their annual fundraiser in March 2007.

Subsequent to awarding of special big game license-tags by the Commission, the Department will enact new agreements with the respective organizations to define and facilitate special license-tag sales by the organizations. These agreements will also define how the Department will coordinate with the various organizations relative to the use of license-tag proceeds for

future species related management projects. The Commission was provided a copy of the agreement template.

The Department recommended that the Commission award the 2007 sponsorship of special license-tags prioritized upon (1) the organization being specific to the big game species, (2) past participation by the organization, and (3) if the tag will be raffled or auctioned, providing equitable public opportunity for acquisition.

Public Comment

The following representatives were present and addressed the Commission on behalf of their organization's requests and applications:

Mark Bool, ADA and Big Game Super Raffle Committee

Tony Abbott, MDF

Dan Hunter, RMEF

Ron Eichelberger, AES

Jerry Guevin, ADBSS and AAF

Dick King, ABA

Bernardo Velasco, NWTF State Chapter

Brad Freitag, SCI – Phoenix Chapter

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE SPECIAL TAG FOR THE NINE BIG GAME SPECIES JOINTLY TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE SUPER RAFFLE FORMAT: ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION, ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, ARIZONA ELK SOCIETY, NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FOUNDATION, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION AND ANY ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS THAT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUPER RAFFLE CONCEPT AND IF NECESSARY THEY PAY WHATEVER UP FRONT MONIES REQUIRED TO GET INTO PROGRAM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION TWO (2) ANTELOPE SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAGS FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION AND THE SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL – ARIZONA CHAPTER ONE (1) EACH A BLACK BEAR SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY TWO (2) BIGHORN SHEEP SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAGS FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION AND THE SAFARI INTERNATIONAL – PHOENIX CHAPTER ONE (1) EACH A BUFFALO SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Commissioner Golightly suggested that RMEF could raise considerable money with this tag.

Commissioner McLean withdrew his second. **Motion died for lack of second.**

Motion: Golightly moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION (FOR THEIR TUCSON BANQUET EVENT) ONE (1) EACH A BUFFALO SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Aye - Melton, Golightly, McLean, Martin

Nay - Hernbrode

Passed 4 to 1

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA ELK SOCIETY AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION ONE (1) EACH AN ELK SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Martin moved and Golightly and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION AND THE SAFARI INTERNATIONAL – ARIZONA CHAPTER ONE (1) EACH A JAVELINA SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Golightly moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION TWO (2) MULE DEER SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAGS FOR AUCTION. (Motion later vacated).

Chairman Melton objected to the motion because both the ADA and MDF requested that they each have one to share in a cooperative effort.

Vote: Aye - Golightly, McLean, Martin

Nay - Melton, Hernbrode

Passed 3 to 2

Motion: McLean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION TWO (2) TURKEY SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAGS FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION AND THE SAFARI INTERNATIONAL – PHOENIX CHAPTER ONE (1) EACH A WHITE-TAILED DEER SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Aye - Golightly, McLean, Hernbrode, Martin
Nay - Melton
Passed 4 to 1

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:42 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:39 p.m.

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The awarding of both mule deer tags to ADA was revisited due to an issue in regards to the rules with that action.

Mr. Ordway stated that ADA only applied for one auction tag and a second tag only if the super raffle was not approved by the Commission no other organization specifically requested it. Mr. Ordway asked for direction in regards to the second mule deer tag that the Commission awarded to ADA.

Public Comment

Tony Abbott, MDF, addressed the Commission in regards to MDF's request for a tag.

The Commission and Mr. Abbott discussed MDF's participation and commitment to working closely with MDF's Arizona Chapter and with the Department.

Motion: Golightly moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO VACATE THE FOLLOWING MOTION: GOLIGHTLY MOVED AND MCLEAN SECONDED THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION TWO (2) MULE DEER SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAGS FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION AND THE MULE DEER FOUNDATION ONE (1) EACH A MULE DEER SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FOR AUCTION.

Vote: Aye - Unanimous

Summary of Special Big Game License-Tags Awarded:

| | Antelope | Black Bear | Bighorn Sheep | Buffalo | Elk | Javelina | Mule Deer | Turkey | Whitetail Deer |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| AAF | 2-Auction | | | | | | | | |
| ABA | | 1-Auction | | 1-Auction | | 1-Auction | | | |
| ADA | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Auction 1-Super Raffle | 1-Super Raffle | 1-Auction 1 Super Raffle |
| ADBSS | | | 2-Auction | | | | | | |
| AES | | | | | 1-Auction | | | | |
| MDF | | | | | | | 1-Auction | | |
| NWTF | | | | | | | | 2-Auction | |
| RMEF | | | | 1-Auction | 1-Auction | | | | |
| SCI-AZ | | 1-Auction | | | | 1-Auction | | | |
| SCI-PHX | | | | | | | | | 1-Auction |

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7. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 19, 20 and 24 for the 2006-2007 Hunting Season.

Presenter: Mike Rabe, Migratory Bird and Small Game Program Supervisor

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Rabe briefed the Commission on Commission Order 19 (dove), Commission Order 20 (band-tailed pigeons), and Commission Order 24 (sandhill cranes) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, and open-closed areas. A detailed description of all proposals were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and were available for public review. Recommendations were as follows:

Commission Order 19 – Dove

The Department recommended that there be no change to the season structure for mourning doves and white-winged doves. The 2006 recommendation is for a September season of 15 days from September 1-15 as per Federal Frameworks; the North Zone will be open to all-day shooting. South Zone shooting hours will be ½-hour before sunrise to noon for adults, and all-day shooting hours for juniors. The late season recommendation is for the season to be open from November 24, 2006 to January 7, 2007 for mourning doves only and allow all-day shooting statewide. This recommendation is the maximum number of days allowed under Federal Frameworks.

An aggregate bag will be 10 mourning doves and white-winged doves, no more than 6 of which can be white-winged doves, as per Federal Frameworks. Possession limit shall be 20 mourning doves after opening day and 12 white-winged doves in the early season. For the late season, bag is 10 mourning doves per day and 20 in possession.

In 1991, the Commission initiated a Juniors-only dove hunt at the Powers Butte Wildlife Area. This year the hunt opportunity is recommended for the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area rather than the Powers Butte Wildlife Area. The dates are September 2-3, 2006. Within the area, shooting stations will be established to accommodate 2 junior hunters each. Should demand exceed supply, shooting stations will be assigned by a drawing at 4:45 a.m. at the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area headquarters. To facilitate hunt operation, hunters will be required to check in and out. Bag limits and shooting hours will be the same as for the general season. Personnel from the Hunter Education Program and Region VI will conduct the hunt.

The Department is recommending continuation of the extended falconry-only dove season initiated in 1991. Recommended Falconry-Only season dates are September 18 through November 3. This season recommendation includes the maximum number of hunt days available for falconry (47). Falconry is also a legal method of take during the early and late dove seasons.

The Department recommends a Eurasian collared dove season to run concurrent to the mourning and white-winged dove seasons (Sept 1-15, November 24, 2006- January 7, 2007) with a bag limit of 25 per day, possession limit of 50 after opening day. North Zone and South Zone shooting restrictions for Eurasian Collared doves will be the same as mourning doves for the early season. Falconry seasons and bag for Eurasian Collared doves will be the same as mourning dove.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT, SUBJECT TO FINAL FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS, COMMISSION ORDER 19: DOVE AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 20 – Band-tailed Pigeon

The Federal Frameworks for band-tailed pigeons within the four-corner states allow for seasons of not more than 30 consecutive days between September 1 and November 30 with a bag and possession limit of 5 and 10, respectively.

The Department recommended that the season in the North Zone be September 15-October 8. This allows for 3 weekends of hunting opportunity. In the South Zone, where band-tailed pigeons reproduce later, the Department recommended that the band-tailed pigeon season open on September 22 and run through October 8, 2005. This provides 2 weekends of hunting opportunity. Bag and possession limits of 5 and 10, respectively, are recommended statewide.

Motion: Mclean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT, SUBJECT TO FINAL FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS, COMMISSION ORDER 20: BAND-TAILED PIGEON AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 24 – Sandhill Crane

Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain populations—The allowed Federal season dates and bag limits for the Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain Populations of cranes in Arizona are as follows: The outside dates of the season must fall between September 1 and January 31 and not exceed 30 days. The bag limit may not exceed 3 per day or 9 per season.

The Department recommended four, general 3-day hunts beginning on November 3, with 85 permits in each hunt. Each hunt will have a non-hunt day between hunts. All hunters that successfully draw for cranes receive 2 tags. Under the terms of the Rocky Mountain Sandhill Crane Management Plan, Arizona's 2006 maximum allowable harvest of RMP cranes is 69 birds. Despite an increased allocation of RMP cranes, the Department recommended keeping this year's permits the same as last year.

Harvest in 2006 will be estimated using questionnaires for all hunts. Besides using the check station for avian influenza monitoring, having a check station this year allows Arizona to calibrate a hunter-completed card system to identify greater and lesser sandhill cranes in 2006 to test using a card system to estimate RMP harvest in the future.

The Department recommended a 3-day archery-only hunt November 24–26, 2005 with 25 permits. Since this hunt typically results in the harvest of 0-2 cranes, so the likelihood of archery harvest impacting the RMP allocation is minimal.

Lower Colorado River Populations—There are currently no Federal Frameworks for LCRV cranes, but the Pacific Flyway proposal calls for 10 permit tags with a mandatory check out. After consultation with the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, two hunts with 5 hunters each hunt was judged to offer the best opportunity and distribution of hunters and the least disturbance to cranes. Each hunter would be awarded one permit tag. The hunts would be Jan 9-11 and Jan 13-15. The Department will continue to work with the refuge to control distribution of hunters within the Refuge so crane roosting and loafing areas are not disturbed.

Public Comment

The following were present and addressed the Commission in opposition to hunting sandhill crane.

Andrew Johnson, representing Mother Earth
Haley Ritter, with Earth First
Ray Leimkuehler, representing himself
Garyn Klasek, Earth First

Motion: Mclean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT, SUBJECT TO FINAL FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS, COMMISSION ORDER 24: SANDHILL CRANE, AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER SUB POPULATION.

Vote: Aye - Melton, Golightly, McLean, Martin
Nay - Hernbrode
Passed 4 to 1

Commissioner Hernbrode stated that as a biologist he is comfortable with the taking of sandhill cranes, but his emotion and commitment to cranes says they are too valuable to be hunted.

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5. Presentation of refined alternatives regarding the pick up and possession of wildlife parts and request for additional direction from the Commission into future enforcement of pick up and possession of wildlife parts.

Presenter: Mike Senn, Assistant Director, Field Operations Division

This item was a continuation from the May 2006 Commission meeting. Law Enforcement Directive 1011 currently provides Department Law Enforcement Officers direction on the possession of wildlife parts held under the authority of Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S) § 17-309.A.20. The Department presented alternatives to the current Law Enforcement directive at the May 2006 Commission meeting and was directed to further refine those options for presentation at the June Commission meeting. The Department presented refined alternatives to the current law Enforcement Directive and requested the Commission provide additional direction on the future enforcement of the pick up and possession of wildlife parts pursuant to A.R.S § 17-309.A.20

Commissioner Hernbrode read a statement from the President of Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society requesting that this policy item be dropped in its entirety or revised to reverse the burden of proof, believing that this will result in an increase of illegal incidences that would have previously been considered harmless. The Commission noted that it appeared there was not a common understanding of the existing policy.

The Commission and Mr. Senn discussed the purpose of the directive, which was to discourage the unlawful take of wildlife.

Mr. Senn stated that bighorn sheep were generally not being unlawfully killed solely for their horns. The primary concern regarding unlawful take was for elk, and to a lesser extent mule deer, and there could be an exemption for bighorn sheep. Also, Article 3 is currently open and this item could be added for review. The final rulemaking package will come back before the Commission in March 2007 and if approved by the Commission, would go to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRRC) in May 2007 and become effective thereafter.

The Commission noted that it might be best to slow this process down and that it may be best to go through the rulemaking process.

Commissioner Golightly suggested working on this with the Assets Committee.

The Commission directed the Department to review this item with the currently open Article 3 review process and to work with the Assets Committee to draft the framework for the rule, and to bring that back to the Commission.

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24. Call to the Public (from Friday's agenda)

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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21. Director and Chairman's Report (revisited from Friday's agenda)

Mr. Ferrell reported on future agenda item noted from this meeting:

- Present the Commission with a spending plan for the \$3.5 million appropriated by SB1441
- Present the propose concept for OHV legislation to be sponsored by the Department on 2007
- Try to save non-essential agenda items for lighter agendas
- In August 2006, present plans for the Audubon wetland
- In August 2006, present the second read of Commission Policy A2.27
- Conduct a telephonic Commission meeting to consider taking necessary steps to make first come first serve done via a manual draw
- Bring the St. Johns Shooting Range problems back to the Commission to describe options for remediation of private property issues and look for other sites in the vicinity of St. Johns
- Present the Commission with the number of species the Department manages and the number of species that are hunted and fished
- Simplify Commission Order 29 regarding areas where the special big game tags are valid.

Richard Rico, Assistant Director, Special Services Division reported on the progress of the new Department headquarters. Standing meetings are taking place every two weeks with the developer and full construction team. Everything to do with the exterior and the warehouse is done. The Department is now working aggressively on laying out the interior of the building. A variety of agreements are in draft and coming to completion. By the end of the month the Department will have a final dollar amount and will be working on the financing package.

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Motion: McLean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

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Joe Melton, Chairman

Michael M. Golightly, Member

William H. McLean, Member

Robert Hernbrode, Member

Jennifer L. Martin, Member

ATTEST:

Duane L. Shroufe
Secretary and Director